

A Compleat NARRATIVE

London. II Sessions

17

Of all the Prisoners, who were Try'd, Cast, and Condemned, at the Sessions-House, in the Old-Bailey, containing the whole remarkable Trials, of *Brent Coleman*, *Richard Edwards*, *John Roberts*, *Michael Jacobs*, and many other Notorious Malefactors.

ON Wednesday Sept. 14, the Sessions began at the Old Bailey, when the following Prisoners were try'd, cast and condemn'd.

John Bradbury, was indicted for robbing *William Stile* on the Highway near *Illeworth*, of 6s and putting him in bodily Fear and Danger of his Life.

This Fellow is by Trade a Tinker, and was taken at a little Alehouse soon after he had committed the Robbery. He was found Guilty, Death.

Philip Riley was indicted for stealing Goods and Money in the House of *Mr. Douglass*, the Property of *John Perkins*.

He was found Guilty, Death, but recommended to Mercy.

Brent Coleman and *Richard Gregory* were indicted for robbing the Lodgings of *Mr. Rayner* the Printer of *Great Queen-street*, when he was out of Town, of Plate, Diamond Rings, Ear-rings, Watches, Cloaths and Money to a considerable Value. And *Michael Jacobs* for receiving the same knowing them to be stolen.

It appeared on the Evidence of *Richard Edwards*, the Coachmaker's Apprentice were *Mr. Rayner* lodg'd, that the Prisoners *Coleman*, *Gregory*, *John Roberts*, and himself, got the Doors open with Picklock Keys, and stole the Goods mentioned in the Indictment, and *Jacobs* sold them.

The Prisoners had little to say in their Defence the Jury found them Guilty, Death.

John Roberts was indicted for a Highway Robbery in *Pancras Fields* in Company with *Gregory* and *Coleman*.

They were likewise found Guilty upon this Indictment, Death.

Thomas Price was indicted for a Highway Robbery in *Pancras Fields* in Company with *Gregory* and *Coleman*, which Fact being plainly proved, the Jury found him Guilty, Death.

The following Robberies were committed by these Notorious Malefactors.

The Evidences were *John Bell*, a Coach-maker, and *Richard Edwards*'s Apprentice to a Coach-maker, in *Great-Queen-Street*, *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, who have confessed the following Robberies, and impeached all their Accomplices, Seven of whom have been apprehended.

1. A Gentleman in *Chelsea*, of a Watch, a Bank-Note, some Money, and a 900 Pound Draught. 2d. A Man in the *Long-Fields*, with a Cock on his Back, of a Hat, and a Pair of Silver-Buckles. 3d. A Man near the Turnpike at *Kentish-town*, of some Half-pence. 4th. A Man near the Turnpike *Islington*, of a Three-Pound-Twelve, Half-a-Guinea, and a Hat. 5th. A Man near *Islington*, of a Pair of Silver-plated Buckles. 6th. A Farmer on *Kemington-Common*, of about Eight Pound, and some Tea, and Sugar. 7th. A Man and a Woman in a Chaise, in the *Harrow-Road*, of Two Pair of Silver-buckles, and Six-pence in Money. 8th. A Gentleman's Servant on Horse-back, near the Turnpike, *Pancras-Church*, of a Silver-watch, and some Money. 9th. A Man between *St. Mary Le Bone*, and *Cavendish-square*, of a Chase



Metal-watch, Black Shagreen-case, the Maker's Name, *Long*, Number 464, and some Money. 10th. A Man and a Woman, near the *Foundling-Hospital*, of a Tortoiseshell-watch, some Money, and his Hat. 11th. A Man near the same Place, of a Hat, and a Pair of Silver-clasps, and his Freedom of the City. 12th. A Man near *Islington*, of his Hat, some Half-pence, a Cane, with a Brass-head, and his Certificate of his Bankruptcy. 13th. A young Man, near *St. Mary Le Bone*, of Eighteen-pence, his Hat, a Silver-stock-buckle, and one Shoe-buckle. 14th. A Man, near the *Boat at Pancras*, of a Parcel of Paper, and a Tobacco-stoper. 15th. A Man in the *Long-fields*, leading to *Kentish-town*, of Two Shillings. 16th. A young Man, near the *Half-way-house*, on the Road to *Hampstead*, of a large Silver-watch, and Thirteen Shillings, and Four pence, in Money. *Mr. Rayer*, in *Great-Queen-street*, near *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*.

One of these young Men, an Apprentice in *Great-Queen-street*, *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, being sent by his Master, one Night for a Loaf, ran into *Holbourn*, to do some Business for himself, where he presently met with a Coach, when he with the usual Imprecations of blowing the Coachman's Brains out, if he did not stop, robb'd the Passengers of what Money they had, and returned home, very coolly, with his Loaf to his Master, who asking him, why he stay'd so long, he told him, he had took the Liberty to run to see his Mother.

They used to assemble at *Bob Gregory's*, who a Jew used to assist them in the Disposal of their Plate, &c. at about one Quarter of the Value, which the Captain used to distribute to the Rest, after which they generally repaired to the most fashionable Places of public Resort, to consume in a riotous Manner, among the most lewd, and dissolute Women of the Town, what they had got with so much Hazard of their Lives.

On dividing the Spoil one Evening, for the Sale of a Black Velvet-waistcoat, &c. They fell out about the Money, and charged the Captain with defrauding them of Part of their Booty, this soon broke all Harmony in the Gang, and proved the Means of their impeaching each other.

Numbers of People, having been robbed in Coaches, &c. about *Great-Queen-street*, *Long-Acre*, *Covent-Garden*, &c. The Thief-takers disperse themselves about, in order to apprehend some of them, if possible. On Saturday Night last, they surpris'd Two of these Villains, who had stopp'd a Coach in *St. Giles's*, and demanded the People's Money, but seeing some Men coming up, which happened to be the Thief-takers, they ran away; but, being closely pursued, they were both taken, and sent to *New-Prison* for that Night, when they impeached the whole Gang, consisting of

Nineteen, Six of which have been since apprehended.

One of them is an Apprentice to a Coach-maker in *Great-Queen-street*, *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, and has confessed robbing a Gentleman's Lodgings in the same House, of a great Quantity of Plate, Gold and Silver-watches, Diamond Rings, Ear-rings, and other Trinkets, to the Value of Two Hundred Pounds, besides a great Quantity of Wearing-apparel, such as Gold-lace waistcoats, Coats, Velvet-breeches, &c. They cut most of the Cloaths to Pieces, and burnt the Gold, which they found Means to turn into Money, which they spent jovially among their Female Companions.

They were possessed of great Numbers of Keys, Pick-locks, &c. by the Assistance of which they have found Means to rob the Houses of People of Fortune, while the Family have been out of Town, of immense Sums of Money, Plate, &c. The latter of which they had a Jew who bought almost whatever they carried to him, thro' the Means of an Agent, who is taken up on the Boy's Impeachment, but the old Son of Circumcision, is moved off, tho' diligent Search is making after him to bring him to Justice.

Almost every Night in the Week they met at a Cellar in the *Strand*, where they concerted their Plans for robbing Coaches, or getting into Houses by the Means of their Keys, or by their artful Insinuations to Servant Maids, have found Means to draw her to some neighbouring Publick-House, while some others of their Gang have got in, and seldom fail'd of some Prey.

The Names of those taken, are as follows: *Thomas Price*, *Abraham Dawns*, *Robert Bell*, *Richard Edwards*, *John Coleman*, *Samuel Gregory*, and *Thomas Roberts*.

NOTHING can prove the great Extravagancy, and Luxury of the present Age, in so strong a Manner, as the Numbers of Highwaymen, Street-Robbers and Cheats, that infest this Town, not having the Fear of God before their Eyes, nor obeying the lawful Commands of their Masters, and Mistresses; but, by frequenting Gaming-Houses, and Bawdy-Houses, bring themselves into Distress, and go upon the Highway. *Mr. Page*, otherwise *Williams*, otherwise *Gage*, was formerly a Footman; but, has been out of Place many Years. *Andrew Scot*, who is charged with robbing the Mail, was also Footman to *Baron Newiman*. *Brent Coleman* was Journeyman to a Coach-Carver; *Richard Gregory* is a Journeyman Shoe-maker; *Thomas Price* was a Gentleman's Coachman, *John Roberts* was a Barber: This Gang was taken in the Fields, armed with Pistols: *Pettit* is a Publican, who suffered Gaming in his House, and where they used to meet and drink; and *Jacobs* the Jew, used to sell their Goods.

Do not young Men, play at Cards at Ale-houses, for Fear what should happen. Mind your Business, get your Livelihood honestly, and spend your Money cheerfully, and with Frugality, in good Company; for Rogues always live in Fear till they are taken, and then they are always sure to be hanged.